

CLAIMS

1. A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in
5 a sample, which process comprises:
 - (i) contacting the sample with a test suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in the sample;
 - (ii) treating the contacted sample and test for a sufficient time interval to inactivate a natural disturbing compound present in the sample; and
 - 10 (iii) incubating the contacted sample and test.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the sample are contacted with a thickening agent.
- 15 3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the thickening agent is a polysaccharide or a protein.
4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the thickening agent is methyl cellulose or bovine albumin.
- 20 5. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (ii) the contacted sample and test are heated for a sufficient time interval to inactivate natural disturbing substances present in the sample.
- 25 6. A process according to claim 5, wherein the contacted sample and test are heated to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C, preferably the contacted sample and test are heated to a temperature from 75°C to 85°C.
7. A process according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the sample and test are heated for
30 from 2 to 20 minutes, preferably wherein the sample and test are heated for from 10 to 15 minutes.
8. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sample is a foodstuff, an animal body fluid, an animal tissue or an extract thereof.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the body fluid is blood, urine, pre-urine, milk, or meat juice.

10. A process according to claim 8, wherein the animal tissue or an extract thereof muscle, heart, liver or kidney or an extract thereof.

11. A test kit for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample, which test kit comprises:

(i) a test suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample; and

(ii) a sample wherein a natural inhibiting substance present in the sample had been inactivated.

12. A test kit for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample, which test kit comprises:

(i) a test suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample; and

(ii) a thickening agent.

13. Use of an incubator in a process according to claim 5.